

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 326

By Grills

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the West Tennessee
Violent Crime and Drug Task Force.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in paying tribute to those outstanding law enforcement officers who have demonstrated great passion and determination in carrying out their appointed mission to rid Tennessee of dangerous drugs and violent crime; and

WHEREAS, one such group of dedicated law enforcement officers is the West Tennessee Violent Crime and Drug Task Force, which encompasses eleven counties and is composed of three separate judicial districts, the 28th, 29th, and 30th, along with a special agreement with the 25th judicial district; and

WHEREAS, the West Tennessee Violent Crime and Drug Task Force seeks to reduce illegal drug trafficking through the coordinated efforts in its region along interstates I-40, I-55, and I-155, as well as local highways; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Director Johnie Carter, the West Tennessee Violent Crime and Drug Task Force includes three investigative officers and an interstate interdiction unit, with approximately sixty full- and part-time agents working on only narcotics, cartels, gangs, and violent crime; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Task Force's agents seized 900 pounds of marijuana, fifty-seven pounds of methamphetamine, forty-six pounds of fentanyl, twenty-one pounds of cocaine, five pounds of psilocybin, 131 weapons, ninety pints of codeine, 1,250 fentanyl pills, 1,320 ecstasy pills, and \$1,461,182 in bulk currency smuggling; and

WHEREAS, in the past year, the Task Force made the largest drug currency seizure in the Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, impounding over \$1.5 million in a single

incident, winning recognition for Agent Brent Hill and the Task Force as Interdiction Team of the Year, Interdiction Officer of the Year, Largest Fentanyl Seizure, Drug Gang Conspiracy Case Recognition, and Largest Drug Currency Seizure by the Tennessee Narcotic Officers Association; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected agency, the West Tennessee Violent Crime and Drug Task Force has a long history of recording perfect audit results, having received zero findings from audits conducted by the State of Tennessee Office of the Comptroller, the Office of Criminal Justice Programs, and the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System; and

WHEREAS, Task Force Director Johnie Carter is a member of the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Dangerous Drugs Task Force, vice president of the Tennessee Gang Investigators Association for the Western District of Tennessee, and a member of the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police; and

WHEREAS, the agents of the Task Force are committed to improving the quality of life for the citizens of Tennessee, as the agents spent more than 500 volunteer hours working with their communities and 600 hours involved in teaching community organizations about gang and narcotic awareness; and

WHEREAS, perhaps its most important seizure of 2022 was the confiscation of forty-six pounds of fentanyl, potentially saving the lives of more than 10,000,000 individuals; notably, only three of the nearly 300 arrests made by the Task Force required any use of force and none of those required medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, without regard for their personal safety, the members of the West Tennessee Violent Crime and Drug Task Force work with purpose and commitment on a daily basis to remove deadly drugs and violent criminals from our communities, and they are richly deserving of our approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the West Tennessee Violent Crime and Drug Task Force on a job well done, as we salute their ongoing commitment to protect and serve their fellow Tennesseans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.